



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 110th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2007

House of Representatives

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

A TRIBUTE RECOGNIZING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF TELACU AND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TELACU'S EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize TELACU, an organization based in East Los Angeles in my 34th Congressional District, on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary and to recognize TELACU's Education Foundation on the occasion of its 25th Anniversary.

TELACU, which stands for The East Los Angeles Community Union, is a pioneer in empowering and revitalizing communities in our great state of California and throughout our nation. In 1968, TELACU was born as a Community Development Corporation (CDC) through seed money appropriated by Congress. Since then, TELACU has grown to become the largest CDC in the nation with more than \$500 million in assets.

For 40 years, under the innovative and dynamic leadership of David C. Lizárraga who serves as Chairman, President and CEO of TELACU, this corporation has provided our young people and families with the tools they need to achieve the American Dream. Through its core businesses, TELACU has created thousands of jobs, affordable homes, loans to small businesses and families, and most importantly, numerous educational opportunities for our Latino community.

In response to crisis-level dropout rates for Latino students in college, TELACU created the TELACU Education Foundation 25 years ago. Working in partnership with a vast network of colleges,

universities, corporations and individuals, the TELACU Education Foundation has awarded millions of dollars in scholarships to thousands of deserving students.

As the centerpiece of the foundation, the TELACU Scholarship Program annually provides scholarships to 600 college and graduate students who are the first in their families to access higher education. Realizing that financial resources alone cannot fully meet these students' needs, the program provides the scholars with comprehensive academic and career guidance to ensure that all of them graduate.

The foundation also serves an additional 2,000 elementary, middle and high school students, nursing students, and veterans. Through comprehensive educational programs, these scholars are not only inspired to pursue higher education, but are also equipped to meet the rigorous expectations of college. As a result, 100 percent of TELACU's high school students earn their high school diploma and continue on to pursue post-secondary education.

Madam Speaker, on the occasions of TELACU's 40th Anniversary and its Education Foundation's 25th Anniversary, I join today with fellow leaders throughout my state in recognizing David Lizárraga and these exemplary institutions for their commendable efforts to empower our young people and our communities, and I wish them many years of continued success ahead.